

CLOSE UP

GRAY DAVIS, GOVERNOR • GARY K. HART, SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION

March 2000



A Message from Secretary Hart

Welcome to the first edition of **CLOSE UP**. This newsletter is intended to provide you with information on Governor Davis' education initiatives and how they will affect schools in California. We'll also tell you about innovative education programs going on in schools around our state.

My hope for this publication is two-fold: first, that you gain a greater understanding of the Governor's education reform efforts, and second, that you might read about an interesting or creative program that could be implemented in your area. Likewise, if you have an effective education program that you would like to share, please forward it to my office (contact information is located on page three of the newsletter).

January was a very busy month in Sacramento. On January 5th, Governor Davis gave his annual State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature. Just a few days later, the Governor released his 2000-01 budget. Once again, the Governor's highest priority will be education. His budget contains a number of initiatives relating to teachers, student achievement, and technology in the classroom. See page two for more details on these proposals.

In this issue of **CLOSE UP**, we outline the Governor's education initiatives for the coming budget year and look at the new Academic Performance Index. You'll also find information on the Governor's Reading Award Program and the READ California campaign. Profiles of OSE's mentoring program and an innovative parental involvement program are also included.

I hope you enjoy our first issue of **CLOSE UP**. Please feel free to contact our office with any feedback.

Sincerely,
Gary K. Hart
Secretary for Education

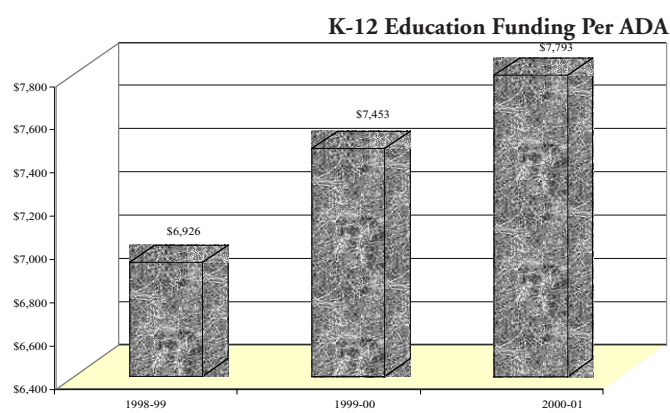
Education Still Governor's Top Priority
Highlights from Governor Davis' Proposed 2000-01 Budget

In the second year of his Administration, Governor Davis has once again made education his top priority. Building on last year's reform measures, the Governor's 2000-01 budget proposes a number of initiatives relating to teachers, student achievement, and school infrastructure.

Proposed spending for the 2000-01 budget year exceeds the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee by \$257 million, and the budget fully funds cost-of-living adjustments and growth for K-12 education programs.

The following chart shows the growth of K - 12 education funding since 1998:

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About the API
(Academic Performance Index)

School rankings for the new Academic Performance Index (API) were posted on the Internet on January 25. You can access API scores by visiting the following website: www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/api/. The API was part of the Public Schools Accountability Act (SB1X), which was passed by the State Legislature last year. This measure established a comprehensive system of public reporting on school achievement by ranking all schools and measuring their performance annually. Each school is given a ranking based on how their API score compares with other schools with similar demographic characteristics. Beginning in September 2000, schools will be ranked according to performance growth, and schools that meet their growth targets may receive both financial and non-monetary rewards.

This year, the API is based on standardized test scores, but future rankings are expected to include other factors such as the California standards-based test and the high school exit exam. In order to measure growth accurately over time, no indicator will be used as part of the API growth targets until two years of data are available.

Both rewards and consequences are part of the API program. Under the High Achieving/Improving Schools program, rewards will be financial and non-monetary.

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Education Still Top Priority
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Governor Davis' education budget proposals focus on three areas: teacher quality, student achievement and campus support.

TEACHER QUALITY

Governor Davis' teacher quality initiatives embody a comprehensive program designed to recruit teachers from a variety of sources and encourage them to teach in low-performing schools. The Governor's proposals also provide support to teachers through various professional development opportunities.



Teaching As a Priority (TAP): This program provides cash awards to credentialed teachers who are hired to teach in low-performing schools, and to low-performing schools that reduce the number of emergency-credentialed teachers on staff.

Recruitment: New teachers will be recruited with the assistance of teacher recruitment centers located throughout the state, as well as with an extensive outreach campaign managed by California State University.

Home Assistance: Qualified teachers who commit to working five years in low-performing schools will be eligible for assistance with a down payment on a home (up to \$30,000).

Fellowships: The Governor's budget includes funding for the Governor's Teaching Fellowships, which will award scholarships to individuals in teacher preparation programs who agree to teach in low-performing schools.

Loans: The successful Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) will be expanded from 5,500 to 6,500 teachers.

Retired Teachers: To encourage retired teachers to return to the classroom, the Governor proposes to suspend the existing limitations on income. Retirees will be allowed to take a teaching position of their choice.

Teacher Training Institutes: The Governor proposes to expand last year's successful Reading Professional Development Institutes from 6,000 to 20,000 participants. In addition, the 2000-01 budget doubles the amount of funding in last year's budget to provide training to a total of 10,000 teachers of English language learners. Other institutes will focus on English and math instructors, with a special academy solely for high school algebra teachers. This will assist instructors with preparing students to pass the new high school exit exam. The successful California Subject Matter Projects will also be expanded to serve

Bill Authors/Co-Authors

Student Achievement

Senator Richard Polanco
Assemblymember Elaine Alquist

Teacher Recruitment

Senator Richard Alarcon
Assemblymember Lou Correa

Teacher Institutes

Assemblymember Rod Wright
Senator Jack O'Connell

Education Technology

Assemblymember Sarah Reyes
Senator Joe Dunn

Science Institutes

Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa
Senator Kevin Murray

Advanced Placement Expansion

Senator Martha Escutia
Assemblymember Kerry Mazzoni

Placement (AP) calculus and science tests.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses: The Governor's budget provides funding to increase the number of AP courses at California high schools. These rigorous courses provide students with an opportunity to engage in college-level work while still in high school. Grants will be awarded to a number of schools with a minimum number of such courses to help with AP professional development and course start-up costs. In addition, the budget provides funding for the continuation of the development of online AP courses.

Student Support: Middle-school students will have the opportunity to participate in intensive algebra academies to help boost their math skills. Instruction will also be available to students by expanding funding for enrollments in the California State Summer School in Math and Science.

Mentoring: The Governor's academic mentoring program will be expanded by \$5 million to increase the number of children served by more than 30,000 students.

CAMPUS SUPPORT

Education Technology: The budget allocates \$200 million for the purchase of computers



for schools; that funding includes money for teacher professional development. The Governor also included full funding for the final year of the Digital High School program.

Instructional Materials: The proposed budget includes \$600 million for standards-aligned textbooks, K-12 instructional materials, and libraries in schools and classrooms.

School Facilities: After July 1, \$3.35 billion in Proposition 1A bond money will become available for new construction and modernization. Additionally, the Governor's budget fully funds the state match for deferred maintenance projects. Finally, \$50 million is allocated for new, environmentally friendly school buses.

